

STATE OF INDIANA

# INDIANA STATE POLICE

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[www.state.in.us/isp](http://www.state.in.us/isp)

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TO: Secretary Of State's Office, Dealer Division

From: Roland Purdy, Detective  
Special Investigations Section

In the last 3 years, there have been a growing number of reports of car dealerships across the country being scammed out of high dollar new and used vehicles as part of an Identity Theft Scam.

In most of the cases, the suspect gains the personal information of an unknowing victim. Using the victim's information, they proceed to get credit approval online to purchase a high dollar vehicle from a dealership. After receiving this approval, the suspect contacts the dealership and in most of the cases, has the dealership overnight mail the sales documents to a residence for their signature. The location where the documents are mailed, has normally been to an abandoned property. If required, the suspect may use a credit card to hold the vehicle. The cards used are prepaid credit cards and can be purchased in any name. After the dealership receives the signed paperwork, the suspect has the vehicle delivered. While the dealership's representative is enroute to deliver the vehicle, the suspect will call this person and change the delivery location (usually to a vacant parking lot or a fast food restaurant). After the delivery, these vehicles are taken somewhere where they are used for parts or shipped overseas. Rarely are the vehicles attempted to be titled in the United States. There have been reports where the suspect makes a couple of payments on the stolen vehicle to prolong bringing attention to the scam. By the time the scam is discovered, the vehicle has been disposed of.

Lately, there have been several attempts to obtain newer model Jeep Cherokee SRT's as well as other more expensive vehicles using this scam.

If you have any similar thefts of vehicles or attempts, please contact Detective Roland Purdy, Organized Crime and Corruption Unit, Indiana State Police at 260-432-8661.

Respectfully,  
Roland Purdy